

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 /060 W

----- 104741 /10

R 230650Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3246
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3802

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SU
SUBJECT: ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 3586

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. WHILE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, PRIMIN BAKR AND OTHER TOP GOS
POLITICIANS ARE ACTIVE RECEIVING DELEGATIONS OR VISITING
PROVINCES PREPARATORY TO NEXT MONTH'S TRIENNIAL SSU
CONFERENCE, SOUTHERN REGIONAL LEADERS ALSO BUSY WITH
ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S REGIONAL ELECTIONS. IN JUBA
DECEMBER 20 VICE PRESIDENT ABEL ALIER MET WITH KEY
OFFICERS OF 1ST DIVISION (FORMERLY SOUTHERN COMMAND).
HE HAILED NATIONAL UNIFICATION ROLE OF PEOPLE'S ARMED
FORCES, LISTING AMONG THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS ABSORPTION OF
FORMER ANYANYA FORCES. MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY MAJGEN
JOSEPH LAGO, EX-ANYANYA GUERRILLA LEADER NOW COMMANDING
1ST DIVISION. ALIER SEPARATELY SPOKE TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE
NEW FEDERATION OF WORKERS TRADE UNIONS OF SOUTHERN REGION,
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NOTING 1977 WILL BE IMPORTANT YEAR FOR REGION. ELECTIONS
WILL TAKE PLACE FOR REGIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND NEW
CABINET LIKELY. IT WILL ALSO MARK END OF FIVE-YEAR PERIOD
SET TO ACCOMPLISH INTERGRATION UNDER ADDIS ABABA ACCORDS.
TO THIS GROUP ALSO ALIER CLAIMED SUCCESS OF ANYANYA
ABSORPTION INTO PAF AND STRESSED ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OF REGIONAL AUTHORITIES. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: ALIER CORRECTLY HAS NOTED POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF 1977 IN SOUTHERN REGION. HIS STRESS ON ANYANYA ABOSRPTION INTO ARMY IS NOT SURPRISING SINCE THIS KEY SENSITIVE OPERATION REQUIRED LIQUIDATE FORMER GUERRILLA FORCES. WHILE PROGRESS ON THIS HAS OCCURRED, THERE HAVE BEEN SET-BACKS AND WE BY NO MEANS SURE ALIER'S CLAIM ENTIRELY VALID. MOREOVER SOME SOUTHERNERS EVIDENTLY CLAIMING THAT ADDIS ACCORDS "EXPIRE" NEXT MARCH, EVIDENTLY SEEKING BY THIS CANARD TO SAP POPULAR SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION SOUTH ALONG CURRENT LINES. MEANWHILE, SOUTHERN EXPECTATIONS IN ECONOMIC AREA RISING, AND AS RECONSTRUCTION PHASE ENDS SOUTHERNERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO APPLY INCREASED PRESSURE TO HAVE LARGER PIECE OF DEVELOPMENT PIE. THEY ALSO HAVE HEARD OF ARAB BILLIONS EARMARKED FOR SUDAN, NOT TO MENTION US AND OTHER AID, AND WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY TO MAKE SURE SOUTH GETS ITS SHARE.

3. ALIER'S MEETINGS WITH MILITARY AND OTHER IMPORTANT GROUPS CLOSELY REFLECT "CAMPAIGN" METHOD ADOPTED BY LEADERS IN KHARTOUM. THIS CONNECTION, ALIER MET WITH SSU SYG ABUL GASIM AND ASST SYG FOR SOUTHERN REGION HILARY LOGALI IN KHARTOUM DEC 21 TO DISCUSS CAMPAIGN AND SSU ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN REGION. FOR ALIER, SSU CONFERENCE IS ONLY BEGINNING, SINCE REGIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGNING WILL FOLLOW. IN SHORT, NEXT YEAR PROMISES TO BE POLITICALLY ACTIVE ONE IN SOUTHERN SUDAN. BREWER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO03802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760471-0067
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761217/aaaaaouf.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KHARTOUM 3586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN
TAGS: PINT, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006